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instant Horn and his whole crew were struggling in the water, which was tinged with blood. The other *balandra*, which was pulling toward the bows, seeing the saucy Golondrina coming toward her 'with a bone in her mouth,' — for I had filled away with the intention of running her down, — rowed across our course to avoid collision; and we passed on, tacked, and came towards the boats on the port tack again.

"They had had enough, however, for the cry of '*Misericordia*' was raised on our approach; and, leaving them to assist the sunken boat and rescue her crew, I wore ship, and bore away for San Blas."

We make this long quotation, not so much for the purpose of setting a model of international courtesies, or of what is generally the best way of dealing with obnoxious custom-house officials, nor solely as an example of the way in which what we call inferior races are often treated by English and Americans, but as example, which would show much better than the longest list of complimentary adjectives, what are the merits of this very entertaining volume. It has not a dull page in the whole account of the writer's adventures. Of less interest are the four stories added at the end of the volume, which smack of the magazine.

4. — *The Life of Abraham Lincoln; from his Birth to his Inauguration as President.* By WARD H. LAMON. With Illustrations. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co. 1872.

EVEN apart from the interest which every citizen must feel in an account of the life of one to whom the whole nation is so deeply indebted, and in addition to the feeling of respect which may possibly prompt some readers to the perusal of this volume, it should be clearly stated that no reader who takes up this biography will fail to find it much more than a very readable book. That a man should rise from the humblest origin to be the President of the United States is recognized by us all as a vaguely possible thing; the promise of such success is used half comically as a spur to indolent or down-trodden boyhood, but to read the record of a life which fulfils this career, the life of one who rose manfully through varying obstacles to this final success, is not only satisfactory to our patriotism, but is also as entertaining as a novel.

The date of Abraham Lincoln's birth is more certain than most other facts about his origin and his family. He was born on the twelfth day of February, 1809. His father was Thomas Lincoln, his mother's maiden name was Nancy Hanks. At that time, we are told, they are supposed to have been married about three years. This state-

ment has already given rise to a great deal of discussion which there is no need of reopening here; it is, at any rate, certain that Lincoln's origin was of the humblest. His father was apparently the most shiftless of men, an unskilled carpenter, a careless farmer, a wanderer over the face of the earth, but, wherever he went, taking with him his proverbial "bad luck." It was in a wretched cabin in Kentucky that Lincoln was born; his boyhood was passed in Indiana; the family living at first in a half-faced camp, "a cabin enclosed on three sides and open on the fourth. It was built, not of logs, but of poles. It was about fourteen feet square, and had no floor." After a year's residence they moved to a cabin without door, windows, or floor. "Three-legged stools served for chairs. A bedstead was made of poles stuck in the cracks of the logs in one corner of the cabin, while the other end rested in the crotch of a forked stick sunk in the earthen floor. On these were laid some boards, and on the boards a 'shake-down' of leaves covered with skins and old petticoats. The table was a huge puncheon, supported by four legs. They had a few pewter and tin dishes to eat from, but the most minute inventory of their effects makes no mention of knives or forks. Their cooking utensils were a Dutch oven and a skillet. Abraham slept in the loft, to which he ascended by means of pins driven into holes in the wall."

It was to this squalor that Thomas Lincoln brought his second wife, an early love of his, who had been left a widow, after the death of Abraham Lincoln's mother. She did all that was in her power to relieve the misery and discomfort that she saw about her, and for her Abraham Lincoln always felt a genuine love. Of his education there is but little to be said; "all his school-days added together would not make a single year." Besides the art of spelling, which formed part of the means of amusement as well as of the serious work of the school, Lincoln fell at one time to the charge of a teacher who, in addition to the ordinary rudiments, taught elegance of manners. "One of the scholars was required to retire, and re-enter as a polite gentleman is supposed to enter a drawing-room. He was received at the door by another scholar, and conducted from bench to bench, until he had been introduced to all the 'young ladies and gentlemen' in the room. Abe went through the ordeal countless times. If he took a serious view of the business, it must have put him to exquisite torture; for he was conscious that he was not a perfect type of manly beauty, with his long legs and blue shins, his small head, his great ears, and shrivelled skin." But besides these parodies of civilization, Lincoln acquired the groundwork of education, and he was moreover a huge reader, reading day and night in his spare moments, which were but few. He had to work, helping his

father and hiring himself out to his neighbors. One of them gives his testimony about Lincoln as follows. He says: "Lincoln was awful lazy. He worked for me; was always reading and thinking; used to get mad at him. He worked for me in 1829, pulling fodder. I say Abe was awful lazy; he would laugh and talk and crack jokes and tell stories all the time; did n't love work, but did dearly love his pay. . . . Lincoln said to me one day, that his father taught him to work, but never learned him to love it."

Of the society in the neighborhood we read: "The houses were scattered far apart; but the inhabitants would travel far to a log-rolling, a house-raising, a wedding, or anything else that might be turned into a fast and furious frolic. On such occasions the young women carried their shoes in their hands, and only put them on when about to join the company. The ladies drank whiskey-toddy, while the men took it straight; and both sexes danced the livelong night, barefooted, on puncheon floors."

The fair sex wore "corn-field bonnets, scoop-shaped, flaring in front, and long though narrow behind. Shoes were the mode on entering the ball-room; but it was not at all fashionable to scuff them out by walking or dancing in them." "Four yards of linsey-woolsey, a yard in width, made a dress for any woman. The waist was short, and terminated just under the arms, whilst the skirt was long and narrow. The coats of the men were home-made; the materials jean, or linsey-woolsey. The waists were short, like the frocks of the women, and the long "claw-hammer" tail was split up to the waist. The breeches were of buckskin or jeans; the cap was of coon-skin; and the shoes of leather tanned at home." Thus Lincoln passed his youth, apparently a favorite with all for his early-formed habit of telling stories and making jokes. When about twenty he made a journey to New Orleans on a flat-boat, which was soon afterwards followed by another similar voyage.

In 1831 Lincoln went to New Salem, in the State of Illinois, a mere village, but one that by no means enjoyed rustic simplicity and quiet. The inhabitants, moreover, held out no inducements to entice strangers to their boundaries. On the contrary, they had the fashion of naturalizing new-comers, as they called it, in the following way: "They first bantered the gentleman to run a foot-race, jump, pitch the mall or wreath; and if none of these propositions seemed agreeable to him, they would request to know what he would do in case another gentleman should pull his nose, or squirt tobacco-juice in his face. If he did not seem entirely decided in his views as to what should properly be done in such a contingency, perhaps he would be nailed in a hogshead,

and rolled down New Salem Hill," or he would be ducked in the Sangamon, or kicked and cuffed by all in the village, and then turned off as unfit company. Any excuse was taken for a fight; and Lincoln, already famous for his skill and power as a wrestler, was challenged to a wrestling-match by the bully of the place, and was victorious. It is indeed curious to notice how much Lincoln was indebted to his immense physical strength for his success in life. In fact, its importance cannot well be overestimated. Not only did it give him great pre-eminence over his companions, but it also established an authority which they all felt that he would have been able to maintain, and in many cases when he saw injustice he was able to interfere for the right. He had great coolness, and his views were fair, and he was able to assume the mastery of a half-civilized mob, every man of which durst not express his opposition at the risk of a thrashing. It made him a natural leader. The same views held by a weak-bodied man would have gone for little or nothing. It was his strength of body as well as of mind that made him President. What influence the possession of this quality must have given him in so rude a society as that in which he lived can be easily seen. It was to the popularity which that helped to give him that was due his election to the command of a company in the Black Hawk war, — an honor of which he said in a brief sketch of his life, written in the year 1859, that it had given him more pleasure than any he had since received. After his return from this brief campaign, Lincoln was the defeated candidate to the House of Representatives; but ill-success only spurred him to making himself more worthy of such dignities. During his residence at New Salem, with the exception of the time that he had been off to the wars, he had been a clerk in the chief "store" of the place; now he went into business with a worthless partner, but without success, and began to read law. "He used to read law," says Henry McHenry, "in 1832 or 1833, barefooted, seated in the shade of a tree, and would grind around with the shade, just opposite Berry's grocery store, a few feet south of the door. He occasionally varied the attitude by lying flat on his back, and putting his feet up the tree."

Squire Godbey says: "The first time I ever saw Abe with a law-book in his hand, he was sitting astride Jack Baler's wood-pile, in New Salem. Says I, 'Abe, what are you studying?' 'Law,' says Abe. 'Great God Almighty!' responded I."

In 1834 he was a successful candidate for the Legislature, and here it is that his public life begins. In spite of his awkwardness, youth, and inexperience, he was successful as a speaker and in the ordinary business of legislation. In the winter of 1836-37 Lincoln took up

his abode at Springfield, and began practice as a lawyer. In 1838 began the long conflict between him and Douglas, which lasted with little leniency on either side until 1858. In 1846 he was elected to Congress from the State of Illinois. Then he took strong ground against the Mexican war. After serving his term he returned to Springfield and busied himself with the practice of his profession. We find in this life a full account of his earnest struggle with Douglas, which did so much to give him a wide reputation as an orator and as a politician. Of his nomination at the Convention in Chicago, it is unnecessary here to speak, and for the same reason we may omit here any further mention of what is still fresh in the memories of all men of over five-and-twenty.

This volume brings the account of Lincoln's life up to the time of his first inauguration,—an appropriate place for its ending, after describing his career from the squalid conditions of his boyhood to the solemn moment when he took his oath as President, when the most terrible dangers the country had ever known were threatening the nation. It is not enough to make mention merely of the interest of such a book; it is one that every American should read, as a statement of the wonderful possibilities that there are in this country. Of Lincoln's rank in the world as a statesman, the time to speak will be when the succeeding volume of his biography, which is to describe his services as President, shall have appeared; but meanwhile we recommend this volume as one that, with some revision, might be made indeed a model biography. The author has taken great pains to secure accuracy; the testimony of all sorts of persons is introduced, and often in their own words, much to the interest of the book; but there are roughnesses here and there which offend the reader, as well as gross offences against good taste. But, as we may say, it has the material of an excellent biography.

In conclusion, it may not be amiss to quote for comparison with those sordid memories of his youth, his speech on leaving Springfield for Washington in 1860.

“FRIENDS,—No one who has never been placed in a like position can understand my feelings at this hour, nor the oppressive sadness I feel at this parting. For more than a quarter of a century I have lived among you, and during all the time I have received nothing but kindness at your hands. Here I have lived from my youth, until now I am an old man. Here the most sacred ties of earth were assumed. Here all my children were born; and here one of them lies buried. To you, dear friends, I owe all that I have, all that I am. *All the strange, checkered past seems to crowd now upon my mind.* To-day I leave you. I go to assume a task more difficult than that which devolved upon Washington. Unless the great God, who assisted him,

shall be with and aid me, I must fail ; but if the same omniscient mind and almighty arm that directed and protected him shall guide and support me, I shall not fail, — I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now. To him I commend you all. Permit me to ask that, with equal security and faith, you will invoke his wisdom and guidance for me. With these few words I must leave you : for how long I know not. Friends, one and all, I must now bid you an affectionate farewell."

5 — *Art Education, Scholastic and Industrial.* By WALTER SMITH, State Director of Art Education, Massachusetts. Boston : James R. Osgood & Co. 1872.

MR. WALTER SMITH'S book on Art Education contains twelve chapters and an Appendix. Six of the chapters, which, however, make hardly more than a quarter part of the whole book, contain the substance of the lectures delivered by Mr. Smith a year ago at the Institute of Technology. They were nominally addressed to persons engaged in the pursuit of industrial art, but in form and structure they have nothing to distinguish them from lectures upon similar topics intended for the general public. They treat successively of Ornamental Design, Surface Decoration, Ornament in Relief, Architectural Enrichments, and Symbolism in Art, with a concluding chapter of recapitulation entitled Prospect and Retrospect. These papers are intelligently though rather loosely written, with occasional passages of vigorous good sense, and not infrequent lapses into a free-and-easy gait, which considerably injures their tone. The views advanced are those now most generally accepted in regard both to the theory and the practice of decorative art, though the language in which they are presented betrays too plainly the controlling influence which Mr. Ruskin and even such minor prophets as Mr. Eastlake have had in giving them form. Altogether, although they are not unprofitable reading for a public but little familiar even with the commonplaces of criticism, and are tolerably free from objectionable matter, they cannot be regarded as a valuable contribution to the literature of art.

The other six chapters, composing by far the largest part of the book, have a substantive value, and constitute probably the most important treatise upon the special branch of education to which they relate that has yet appeared either in this country or in England. We doubt whether any Continental writer has given the various methods and appliances of art education so full and fair consideration, or brought